[English]

Reogranisation of Consulates

480. DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to reorganise all the consulates in a bid to accelerate the export promotion efforts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have called for information from these consulates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir. However, a proposal to streamline the functioning of India's Commercial Wings abroad with a view to achieve our export trade objectives, is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Economic Growth Rate

481. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the targeted economic growth rate fixed by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the actual achievement of economic growth rate at the end of the Eight Plan is far below the target fixed; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The targeted economic growth (in terms of GDP at factor cost) fixed by the end of the Eight Five Year Plan was 5.6 per cent per annum. As per the latest available information the actual rate of economic growth in the Eight Five Year Plan is likely to be 6.5 per cent per annum.

(c) Does not arise.

Trade Embargo Policy

482. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state:

(a) whether the Government have urged the United States to review its embargo policy;

(b) if so, whether this was discussed with the President of USA during his recent visit; and

(c) if so, the extent to which United States Government has agreed to review its embargo policy towards India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The Government of the United States has recently named certain Indian organisations and industrial enterprises under the US Export Administration Regulations (USEAR), which entails the requirement of specific Export Licence for all commodities imported by these organisations/companies.

The matter was strongly taken up at various Ministerial and official levels to convince and urge the US Authorities to review their decision.

While some progress has been made the outcome is not fully satisfactory and further discussion in this issue will continue.

Assets of Industrial House

483. SHRI N. N. KRISHANDAS:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Consequent upon the omission of Section 26 of the MRTP Act, 1969 by the MRTP (Amendment) Act, 1991, large industrial houses are no longer required to be registered with the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether there is any other source to know the assets to industrial houses in the county; and

(c) if so, the names of the top one hundred industrial houses and the assets they hold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Consequent upon deletion of part A of Chapter III of the MRTP Act, 1969 with effect from 27.09.1991, data on industrial houses are not compiled separately by the Department of Company Affairs.

Confiscation of Heroin

484. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether highly refined heroin was recently confiscated from the possession of the senior Air India Commander at Mumbai International Airport;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of the heroin and the countries of its origin and destination;